

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are currently pending in this application. Selected claims are amended to clarify and more particularly indicate the claimed subject matter. New claim 28 has been added. No new matter is included. In view of the foregoing amendments and following comments, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,233,318 to Picard. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the following basis.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the feature of obtaining access to each of the selected individual messaging accounts by providing each of the selected individual messaging accounts with the corresponding at least one of the password and user ID, among other things. Independent claims 9, 18, and 25 recite similar features.

In an exemplary embodiment pertaining to email, the client workstation connects to a proxy server (see the specification at page 6, lines 8-9). The proxy server transmits to each mail server user account name information particular to the user's individual account with each service provider, by looking up ID, password, and associated information in mail registration database (see the specification at page 6, lines 21-24). Thus, a single access request submitted by a user enables access to multiple messaging accounts associated with different service providers corresponding to the user (see specification page 6, lines 12-17 and lines 22-24; Fig. 2).

In contrast, Picard is directed to a system that enables unifying message storage to allow different types of messages or electronic communications such as voicemail, facsimile, e-mail, and video to be stored and accessed on a single system in a single unified multimedia mailbox (see Picard, col. 1, lines 61-66). Specifically, Picard discloses integrating different types of multimedia messages into a single mailbox (see Picard, col. 1, lines 61-66). However, Picard does not disclose *individually* accessing

the various multimedia messages. Furthermore, Picard does not teach or suggest that each of the various multimedia messages are protected by a corresponding password and/or a user ID. As a result, Applicants submit that Picard does not disclose obtaining access to each of the various multimedia messages stored in various individual messaging accounts. Thus, Picard also does not disclose obtaining access to each of the selected individual messaging accounts by providing each of the selected individual messaging accounts with the corresponding at least one of the password and user ID.

While Picard appears to disclose using a password, the system disclosed in Picard is different than the claimed invention. Picard discloses that the subscriber may enter the password into a login information form. However, this password is merely a login password for gaining entry to the system and is not disclosed to protect various multimedia messages stored in various individual messaging accounts. In particular, Picard discloses that the server validates the subscriber and synthesizes the subscriber's main messaging page from the contents of the subscriber's message store (see Picard col. 10, lines 46-51). The subscriber's messaging page contains links to each of the subscriber's messages (see Picard col. 10, lines 51-54). Thus, Applicants submit that Picard discloses protecting access to a system. However, once a subscriber logs into the system, the subscriber is able to access to all of a subscriber's messages that span over several messaging accounts (e.g., voicemail, facsimile, e-mail, and video). Picard does not disclose a system that protects each messaging account with a password and user ID. Therefore, Picard does not disclose obtaining access to each of the selected individual messaging accounts by providing each of the selected individual messaging accounts with the corresponding at least one of the password and user ID.

Since Picard neither discloses nor suggests the invention claimed in independent claims 1, 9, 18, and 25, these claims clearly are not anticipated by Picard. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-8, 10-17, 19-24, 26, and 27 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency. For at least the reasons provided above, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

New claim 28 has been added to capture features disclosed in the specification, but not previously recited in the claims. In particular, claim 28 recites two or more individual messaging accounts associated with different service providers, among other things. As set forth above, Picard discloses integrating different multimedia messages within a same system into a single mailbox. Picard does not disclose two or more individual messaging accounts associated with different service providers. Applicants submit that new claim 28 is patentable over the cited art for at least the foregoing reason.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: March 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean L. Ingram', is written over a horizontal line.

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